

# Additional Information for People Worried about COVID-19 Vaccination

## Additional FAQs about COVID-19 Vaccine Safety

### 1 Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe?

Yes. All COVID-19 vaccines used in the United States were tested in clinical studies involving thousands of people. These studies were done to make sure the vaccines meet safety standards and protect people of different ages, races, and ethnicities. There were no serious safety concerns, although CDC has learned of reports that some people have experienced severe allergic reactions. All the approved COVID-19 vaccines have met the same safety standards as all other vaccines used in the United States.

### 2 How do CDC and FDA monitor safety?

There are systems in place that allow CDC and FDA to watch for safety issues:



**CDC: [V-safe](#)** – A new smartphone-based, after-vaccination health checker for people who receive COVID-19 vaccines. **V-safe** uses text messaging and web surveys from CDC to check in with vaccine recipients following COVID-19 vaccination. **V-safe** also provides second vaccine dose reminders if needed, and telephone follow-up to anyone who reports medically significant (important) adverse events.



**CDC and FDA: [Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System \(VAERS\)](#)** – The national system that collects reports from healthcare professionals, vaccine manufacturers, and the public of adverse events that happen after vaccination. Reports of adverse events that are unexpected, appear to happen more often than expected, or have unusual patterns are followed up with specific studies.

### 3 Will the COVID-19 vaccine change my DNA?

No. Some of the COVID-19 vaccines are a new type of vaccine called “messenger RNA” vaccines or “mRNA” vaccines. Messenger RNA vaccines teach our cells how to make a protein—or even just a piece of a protein—that triggers protection inside our bodies. The mRNA in the vaccine cannot affect your DNA in any way.



### 4 Is it safe to get the vaccine if I'm pregnant or breastfeeding?

There is limited information about the safety of COVID-19 vaccines during pregnancy and breastfeeding. However, based on knowledge about how these vaccines work, experts believe the vaccines are unlikely to pose a risk for pregnant women or breastfeeding infants. Pregnant and breastfeeding women may choose to be vaccinated if they are part of a group that is recommended to receive COVID-19 vaccine. Your doctor can help you make this decision.

### 5 Is it safe to get a COVID-19 vaccine if I have an underlying medical condition?

Yes. COVID-19 vaccination is especially important for people with underlying medical conditions like heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, and obesity. People with these concerns are more likely to get very sick from COVID-19. People with these medical conditions were also part of vaccine research.

### 6 Is it safe for me to get the COVID-19 vaccine if I would like to have a baby one day?

Women who are trying to become pregnant do not need to avoid pregnancy after receiving a COVID-19 vaccine. Scientists study every vaccine carefully for side effects immediately after vaccination and for years afterward. There is nothing that shows that fertility problems are a side effect of any vaccine.

### 7 Is it safe to get a COVID-19 vaccine if I have allergies?

If you have ever had a severe or immediate allergic reaction to any ingredient in a COVID-19 vaccine, you should **not** get vaccinated. If you have had an allergic reaction to other vaccines or injectable medications, talk to your doctor or nurse. You may still get vaccinated if you have severe allergies to oral medications, food, pets, insect stings, latex, or things in the environment like pollen or dust.

### 8 Is there a microchip in the vaccine so the government can track me?

No, the government is not using the vaccine to track you. There may be trackers on the vaccine shipment boxes to protect them from theft, but there are no trackers in the vaccines themselves. State governments track where you got the vaccine and which kind you received using a computerized database to make sure you get all recommended doses at the right time. You will also get a card showing that you have received a COVID-19 vaccine.